

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, Senator Vrtiska, would you respond to a question or two?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Vrtiska, I appreciate the intent of the bill and the way...the need that is out there in some areas of the state but I'm looking at it as it was originally drafted and now I'm having some difficulty because of the committee amendments and the Kristensen amendment. Could you tell me, as it was originally drafted, it included up to Class VI counties. Is that not correct?

SENATOR VRTISKA: That's correct.

SENATOR HALL: And that would have excluded Douglas and Lancaster County. Is that correct?

SENATOR VRTISKA: That's correct.

SENATOR HALL: Was that...and that was the intent of the bill and it was for what reason?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, it's my understanding that they already had the 911 system and I was informed that they were not interested in having that included in the bill that was basically for the other areas that were in need, so that's why we chose to do that.

SENATOR HALL: And would you be willing to, I guess,...and I don't know how the committee amendments deal with that, if they strike that original Section 2 or how it's currently structured, but as the chief introducer, are you still willing to leave that provision as the green copy was originally introduced, to basically exclude Douglas and Lancaster because they already do have those systems that are in place?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yeah, that's all right with me, yeah.

SENATOR HALL: Okay, because that's the only question here for me is whether or not with the way the bill is or the committee amendments are structured as they strike Section 2 that the potential is there for the counties of Douglas and Lancaster